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INFO RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 0737  
RUEHLJ/AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA PRIORITY 0121  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

UNCLAS LONDON 004688

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
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STATE FOR SCA/PB, EUR/ERA

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [PTER](#) [PK](#) [UK](#)  
SUBJECT: (SBU) PAKISTAN: UK URGES ELECTIONS WITHOUT  
SIGNIFICANT DELAY

REF: STATE 170928 (NOTAL)

(U) SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED; PROTECT ACCORDINGLY. NOT  
FOR INTERNET.

¶1. (SBU) HMG "agrees completely" with the USG that Pakistan's elections should proceed on schedule if possible, and if not, the postponement should be to a specified new date, according to Laura Guy, Head of FCO's Pakistan Section. Responding to reftel, Guy said HMG is keen on "as much election monitoring as possible." As she understood it, the head of the EU election observation mission in Islamabad had decided that constraints of time and security would permit only an "assessment" if the elections occurred on schedule January 8, rather than the more ambitious "limited election observation mission" that had been envisaged. Guy made clear that if the elections were delayed, the UK would be "keen" for a "much more comprehensive" EU observation effort.

¶2. (U) As reported by the BBC, a spokesman for Prime Minister Gordon Brown said the PM had spoken by telephone with President Musharraf and "underlined the need to push ahead with the democratic process and to avoid any significant delays to the electoral timetable."

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